

Senate File 247 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 247

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A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the allowable uses for modified allowable
2 growth for programs for returning dropouts and dropout
3 prevention.
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 257.41, Code 2011, is amended to read as
2 follows:

3 **257.41 Funding for programs for returning dropouts and**
4 **dropout prevention.**

5 1. Budget. The budget of an approved program for returning
6 dropouts and dropout prevention for a school district, after
7 subtracting funds received from other sources for that purpose,
8 shall be funded annually on a basis of one-fourth or more
9 from the district cost of the school district and up to
10 three-fourths by an increase in allowable growth as defined in
11 section 257.8. Annually, the department of management shall
12 establish a modified allowable growth for each such school
13 district equal to the difference between the approved budget
14 for the program for returning dropouts and dropout prevention
15 for that district and the sum of the amount funded from the
16 district cost of the school district plus funds received from
17 other sources.

18 2. Appropriate uses of funding. Appropriate uses of the
19 returning dropout and dropout prevention program funding
20 include but are not limited to the following:

21 a. Salary and benefits for teachers and guidance counselors
22 of students participating in the dropout prevention programs,
23 alternative programs, and alternative schools if the teacher
24 or counselor is dedicated to working with returning dropouts
25 or students who are deemed, at anytime during the school year,
26 to be at risk of dropping out, to provide services beyond
27 those provided by the school district to students who are not
28 identified as at risk of becoming dropouts. However, if the
29 teacher or counselor is a part-time dropout prevention and
30 part-time regular classroom teacher or counselor, only the
31 portion of time that is related to the returning dropout and
32 dropout prevention program may be charged to the program.

33 b. Professional development for all teachers and staff
34 working with at-risk students and programs involving dropout
35 prevention strategies.

1 c. Research-based resources, materials, software, supplies,
 2 and purchased services that meet all of the following criteria:

3 (1) Meet the needs of kindergarten through grade twelve
 4 students identified as at risk of dropping out and of returning
 5 dropouts.

6 (2) Are beyond those provided by the regular school program.

7 (3) Are necessary to provide the services listed in the
 8 school district's dropout prevention plan.

9 (4) Will remain with the kindergarten through grade twelve
 10 returning dropout and dropout prevention program.

11 d. Are administrative costs related to the returning dropout
 12 and dropout prevention program.

13 EXPLANATION

14 This bill codifies the department of education's rules that
 15 specify the appropriate uses of the returning dropout and
 16 dropout prevention program funding for school districts as
 17 authorized by the department of education, but modifies the
 18 list of appropriate uses by adding that administrative costs
 19 related to the returning dropout and dropout prevention program
 20 are an appropriate use of the funding. Under the department's
 21 rules, administrative costs other than those related to a
 22 separate school located off site, and where the administrator
 23 is assigned exclusively to this program, are an inappropriate
 24 use of the funding.

25 Appropriate uses of funding as specified by both the
 26 department's administrative rules and the bill include salary
 27 and benefits for teachers and guidance counselors when those
 28 persons are dedicated to working with returning dropouts or
 29 students who are deemed, at anytime during the school year,
 30 to be at risk of dropping out, to provide services beyond
 31 those provided by the school district to students generally;
 32 professional development for all teachers and staff working
 33 with at-risk students and programs involving dropout prevention
 34 strategies; and research-based resources, materials, software,
 35 supplies, and purchased services that meet criteria specified

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1 in the bill.